

REMARKS

Claims 1-2, 5-9, 12-15, and 18-21 are pending. Claims 1, 5-6, 8, 12-13, 14, and 18-20 are amended herein. Claims 3-4, 10-11 and 16-17 are cancelled herein. No new matter is added as a result of the amendments.

Claim objections

Claims 20-21 are objected to because of alleged informalities contained therein (a lack of antecedent basis for a term contained therein). Applicants have amended Claims 20-21 to include the limitation “a low dropout voltage regulator (LDO)” which provides the required antecedence. Accordingly, Applicants respectfully request that the objection to Claims 20-21 be withdrawn.

Allowable Subject Matter

Claims 3-7, 10-13, and 16-21 are objected to as being dependent upon a rejected base claim, but are indicated as containing allowable subject matter. Applicants have rewritten independent Claims 1, 8, and 14 to include the allowable subject matter of Claims 3, 10 and 16 and have amended Claim 20 to obviate the objection made thereto. Accordingly, Applicants respectfully submit that Claims 1, 8, 14, and 20 are in condition for allowance and that Claims 2, 5-7, 9, 12-13, 15, 18-19, and 21 dependent on Claims 1, 8, 14, and 20 respectively are likewise in condition for allowance as being dependent on an allowable claim.

102 Rejections

Claims 1, 2, 8, 9, 14, and 15 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by

Coles et al. (US 6,437,638). Applicants have reviewed the Coles et al. reference and respectfully submit that the embodiments of the present invention as are set forth in Claims 1, 2, 8, 9, 14, and 15 are neither anticipated nor rendered obvious by Coles et al. Moreover, Applicants respectfully submit that the rejection of Claims 1, 2, 8, 9, 14 and 15 is rendered moot in view of the rewriting, discussed above, of independent Claims 1, 8 and 14 (from which Claims 2, 8, 9 and 15 respectively depend) to include subject matter indicated by the Examiner in the outstanding Office Action as allowable.

The Examiner is respectfully directed to amended independent Claim 1 which is drawn to a dropout voltage regulator. Claim 1 is reproduced below in it's entirety for the convenience of the Examiner.

1. A low dropout voltage regulator (LDO) comprising:

a regulating circuit having an input terminal, an output terminal, and a control terminal, said regulating circuit configured to receive an input signal at said input terminal and provide an output signal at said output terminal in response to a control signal received at said control terminal;

an amplifier having a first and second input terminal and an output terminal, said first input terminal coupled to a first input path, said output terminal of said amplifier coupled to said control terminal of said regulating circuit via a path to provide said control signal;

a first compensating path coupled between a first node on said first input path and a first node on said path coupling said output terminal of said amplifier to said control

terminal of said regulating circuit, said first compensating path comprising a first compensating capacitor; and

a second compensating path coupled between said output terminal of said regulating circuit and a second node on said path coupling said output terminal of said amplifier to said control terminal of said regulating circuit, said second compensating path comprising a second compensating capacitor.

Independent Claims 8 and 14 contain limitations similar to those contained in Claim 1. Claims 2, 9, and 15 depend from independent Claims 1, 8, and 14 respectively and set forth additional limitations of embodiments of the claimed invention.

Coles et al. does not anticipate or render obvious the embodiments of the invention that are set forth in Claims 1, 2, 8, 9, 14, and 15. A shortcoming of the Coles et al. reference is that it does not teach or suggest each of the limitations of Claims 1, 2, 8, 9, 14, and 15. More specifically, Coles et al. does not teach or suggest a low dropout voltage regulator that includes “a second compensating path” as is set forth in Claims 1, 8, and 14 (from which Claims 2, 9, and 15 depend respectively).

Coles et al. discloses a very dissimilar voltage regulator. Coles et al. is concerned with stabilizing the output voltage of the voltage regulator without limiting the output current. However, Coles et al. does not teach the recited connection between a second compensating path and a regulating circuit (Claims 1, 8, and 14).

In fact, nowhere in the Coles et al. reference is a low dropout voltage regulator that includes a second compensating path (Claims 1, 8, and 14) taught or suggested as is set forth in Claims 1, 8, and 14. Consequently, Applicants respectfully submit that the rejection of Claims 1, 8, and 14 under 35 U.S.C §102 (b) is improper and that Claims 1, 8, and 14 are in condition for allowance. Accordingly, Applicants respectfully submit that Claims 2, 9, and 15 dependent on Claims 1, 8, and 14 respectively are likewise in condition for allowance as being dependent on an allowable claim.

DRAWINGS

Drawings are amended and included in an appendix. Applicants respectfully submit that the amended drawings are in condition for allowance.

SUMMARY

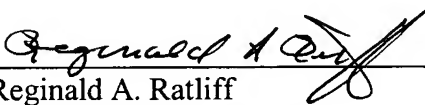
In view of the foregoing amendments and remarks, Applicants respectfully submit that the pending claims are in condition for allowance. Applicants respectfully request reconsideration of the Application and allowance of the pending Claims.

If the Examiner determines the prompt allowance of these Claims could be facilitated by a telephone conference, the Examiner is invited to contact Reginald A. Ratliff at (408) 938-9060.

Respectfully submitted,

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